
**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION
EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT
MAY 2005**

Administrative Civil Liabilities (Robert Perdue)

The EO issued ACL Complaint No. R7-2005-0012 to the City of El Centro WWTP, assessing \$18,000 in MMPs. Monitoring reports submitted by the City of El Centro show the effluent discharged to the Central Main Drain exceeded discharge limitations prescribed in Board Order No. R7-2004-0004 for E. coli (two times) and selenium (seven times) during the last year.

The EO issued ACL Complaint No. R7-2005-0089 to the Niland Sanitary District WWTP, assessing \$67,400 in MMPs. Monitoring reports submitted by Niland Sanitary District show that effluent discharged to "R" Drain exceeded discharge limitations prescribed in Board Order No. R7-2003-0049 for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (seven times), rates of removal of Suspended Solids (three times), and E. coli (thirteen times) in the last five years.

Triennial Review (Abdi Haile)

Section 303(c) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 130 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) require that the State hold public hearings to review applicable water quality standards (WQS), and modify and adopt standards as necessary. Water quality standards include beneficial uses and water quality objectives (WQOs). Section 13240 of the California Water Code (CWC) requires the State to formulate and periodically update Regional Water Quality Control Plans (Basin Plans). The Basin Plan is a master-planning document for ground and surface waters in the Region.

The Regional Board holds public hearings to evaluate WQS and need for revisions at least every three years, hence the term "Triennial Review." The purpose of the Triennial Review is twofold: to identify potential water quality problems/issues, and to reaffirm parts of the Basin Plan where no potential problems are identified. Reviewing Basin Plan and WQS adequacy involves several procedural requirements summarized below:

- Prepare a preliminary list of potential water quality concerns (i.e., Triennial Review List);
- Notice a Public Hearing to review WQS (CWC 13244), adopt the Draft Triennial Review List, and reaffirm parts of the Basin Plan not included in the list as adequate;
- Conduct workshops if necessary, and a Public Hearing;
- Respond to comments identified during the public comment period, and the Hearing;
- Finalize the list of potential water quality issues;
- Prepare a workplan to address those issues, including the need for Basin Plan amendments, and resources needed to complete the amendments;
- Adopt a Board Resolution that specifies the findings and intent of the Triennial Review, reaffirms parts of the Basin Plan not included in the Triennial Review List, specifies that the Basin Plan remains in effect in its entirety until amendments are adopted, and terminates the 2004 Triennial Review; and
- Forward the Board Resolution and hearing record to the State Water Resources Control Board for review and approval.

The review does not necessarily mean that the Basin Plan will be revised. While a major part of the review consists of identifying potential water quality issues, an important part is the reaffirmation of those portions of the Basin Plan where no potential problems are identified.

Regional Board staff notified interested and potentially affected parties of the intent to conduct a Triennial Review in a Public Notice dated November 17, 2004. The Public Notice included a draft list of potential water quality issues for investigation and review. Regional Board staff revised the Draft 2004 Triennial Review List based on public comment. In a Public Notice dated March 18, 2005, staff notified interested and potentially affected parties of these revisions. The Public Notice also stated the Regional Board's intent to conduct a public hearing on May 4, 2005 to: (a) review the findings of the 2004 Triennial Review List, (b) adopt the Triennial Review List and Workplan, and (c) terminate the 2004 Triennial Review.

Issue	Priority
1. Beneficial Use Designation of Surface Waters	High
2. Beneficial Use Designation of Aquifers	High
3. Guidelines for Sewage Disposal From Land Developments	High
4. Remove Reference to Fecal Coliform Monitoring	Medium
5. Re-evaluate Language in the Basin Plan Pertinent to the Salton Sea	High
6. New River Pollution from Mexico	High
7. Standardize Imperial Valley Sediment TMDL Implementation Schedules – Alamo River, New River, and Imperial Valley Drains	High
8. Develop Region-wide Policy to Address Discharges of Agricultural Wastewater	High
9. Clarification of State Antidegradation Policy	Medium
10. Sediment and Turbidity Water Quality Objective Implementation	Medium
11. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Ammonia	Medium
12. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Residual Chlorine	Medium
13. Develop Water Quality Objectives for Biocriteria	Medium
14. Correct Errors and Outdated Information, and Include Referenced Policies	High

Meaders Cleaners Update (Ron Falkowski)

The landowner and facility operator of Meaders Cleaners, the source of Tetrachloroethene and Trichloroethene contamination in two of Desert Water Agency municipal supply wells, were issued a Clean Up and Abatement Order in 1997.

Attorneys for the above parties have finished another round of negotiations with the insurance carriers. They have obtained funding for a pilot test to apply possible remedial technologies, additional aquifer assessment and DWA-6 well testing on aquifer/contaminate influence as outlined in the previously accepted workplan.

The California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program Permit Standardization (NPDES) (John Carmona)

CIWQS is a new computer system for the State and Regional Water Boards to track information about sites of environmental interest, manage permits and other orders, track compliance inspections, and manage violations and enforcement activities. A key component of CIWQS is the electronic Self Monitoring Report (eSMR) module that will allow dischargers to report their required monitoring data electronically via the CIWQS web site. The eSMR module will be available only for NPDES individual permit holders. Region 7 is one of the first Regional Boards where CIWQS will be implemented.

In an effort to have more standardized permits, the NPDES Regulation Unit at the State Water Board, and the Program Managers at the Regional Boards, along with private contractor, Tetra Tech, have developed a permit template. The standardization project has several objectives including streamlining the permit issuance process, minimizing permit challenges, making permits more clear and concise and facilitating data entry and extraction. Permit standardization will also allow self-monitoring reports to be submitted electronically via CIWQS and parts of them checked for compliance automatically.

Border Update

USEPA representatives, Nancy Woo and Sue Cox, presented USEPA's past, present and future efforts in addressing the discharge of raw sewage, originating in Mexicali, Mexico, into the New River. To view the presentation, please see the May, 2005 Board Meeting minutes located on our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/documents/board_minutes/index.html

Special Events and Meetings attended by Executive Officer and/or Assistant Executive Officer

March 30, 2005, Imperial Co.

RB member and AEO participated in California's Department of Food and Agriculture's annual agricultural tour. The tour partly focused on agricultural practices in the Imperial Valley, while highlighting the cooperative relationship between the RB and the Imperial Co. Farm Bureau with regards to implementing sediment TMDLs throughout the Imperial Valley.

April 6, 2005, Mecca

RB member and AEO attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians' wetland pilot project that is primarily funded by Proposition 13 monies. The \$1.5 million pilot project is designed to improve water quality in the Whitewater River at its outlet to the Salton Sea.

May 21, 2005, Riverside

RB legal counsel and EO met with the Riverside County Assistant District Attorney handling environmental crimes to discuss complementary roles in enforcing environmental laws.